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To replace Grady Cothen

Elder to be nominated as Sunday School Board head

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Lloyd Elder, executive vice president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, will be nominated Feb. 1 to succeed Grady C. Cothen as president of the Sunday School Board.

Elder, 49, has held his present post since 1978. Earlier, he was assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for three years.

Cothen, president of the board since 1975, will retire Feb. 1, 1984.

John J. Bryan, chairman of the seven-member search committee, said the board's 83 trustees were notified by letter Jan. 17 of the committee's unanimous decision to nominate Elder. Employees of the board were informed in a chapel meeting Jan. 20.

Bryan, a physician from Bluefield, W. Va., said the committee decided to release its nomination two weeks before the election "to allow trustees time for prayerful preparation for this

significant decision." He added that the committee wanted Southern Baptists to be fully informed about the nominating and election process.

When Elder's nomination is made to the board Feb. 1, he will be present to make a statement and respond to questions prior to the vote, Bryan said.

"The Search Committee greatly appreciates the encouragement and support we have received from Southern Baptists and the total board of trustees who have the authority and responsibility for electing a new president," said Bryan. "We want this early announcement of our committee report to be a call to prayer for all Southern Baptists. We confidently come to this hour assured of that period peace promised in Isaiah 26:3."

Elder, a native of Texas, is a graduate of Howard Payne University, and earned M.Div. and Th.D. degrees from Southwestern. He has done postgraduate study in management at Texas Tech University and the University of Michigan.

Before accepting a position with the Texas convention, Elder held pastorates in the state at First Church, Holland; First Church, Princeton; First Church, College Station; and Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth.

Elder and his wife Sue are members of Gambrell Street Church. They are the parents of two children, Donna Sue (Mrs. Rick Maas), 25, and Philip, 16.

The announcement of Elder's nomination culminates five months of work by the search committee elected by the trustees in August 1982 following a request by Cothen for medical retirement.

After issuing an invitation to any Southern Baptist to submit a nomination, two members of the committee reported Dec. 10 to board employees in chapel that about 70 nominations had been received and each was being considered.

If elected, Elder would become the seventh president of the Southern Baptist institution charged by the denomination with publishing church literature, music, books and Bibles, as well as operating two conference centers and 65 book stores.

In addition to Bryan, other members of the committee include Lloyd Batson, pastor of First Church, Pickens, S.C.; Warren Hultgren, pastor of First Church, Tulsa, Okla.; Raymond Langlois, pastor of Judson Church, Nashville, and Katy Stokes, homemaker from Waco, Tex. Also

serving on the committee as ex-officio members are Alton McEachern, chairman of trustees and pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., and John Daley, pastor of Brook Hollow Church, Nashville.

(Lawson is BSSB news editor.)

High court won't review Lubbock schools' case

DALLAS (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 17, without comment, that it will not review the decision of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in a bitterly disputed case over a 1980 policy of the Lubbock school district permitting students to gather for religious purposes. The policy allowed students "to gather at the school with supervision either before or after regular school hours on the same basis as other groups as determined by the school administration to meet for any educational, moral, religious, or ethical purposes so long as attendance at such meetings is voluntary."

The federal district court ruled in favor of the policy, but the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans reversed the ruling. The school district appealed.

Two Lubbock Baptists—Mrs. Don (Skeet) Workman who with her son and husband participated in the suit, and D. L. Lowry, pastor of First Church—were disappointed in the high court action.

"We thought they would hear our case," Workman said. "Their refusal means that we can have no voluntary acts before or after school or any school property for anything that pertains to religion. We believe this is a loss of freedom of speech... the freedom of assembly. It is much broader than a loss of religious freedom."

HMB appoints Mississippians

ATLANTA (BP)—The Home Mission Board's Executive Committee approved 83 persons for assignments in 24 states and Puerto Rico during their January session including 12 missionaries, 18 missionary associates, and 53 persons who will receive pastoral aid.

Those appointed missionaries included Eliu and Carmen Camacho of New Orleans, who will move to Largo, Fla., where he will be a catalytic language missionary. He is a graduate of Pepperdine University and New Orleans Seminary and has been pastor of Spanish congregations in Georgia, the Canal Zone, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Appointed missionary associates were Alvie and Irene White of Picayune, Miss. The Whites will remain in Mississippi where he will work as a church planter apprentice in Carriere. He holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary and is a former school teacher. She has worked for Computer Sciences Corporation since 1978.

Harry Piland resigns BSSB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Harry M. Piland, director of Southern Baptists' Sunday School program for five years, has resigned effective Feb. 28 to return to First Baptist Church, Houston as administrative pastor and minister of education.

Before becoming director of the Sunday School department of the Sunday School Board in 1976, Piland, 54, had been minister of education at the Houston church for five years.

In his announcement Jan. 24 to the 150 employees of the department, Piland said his decision was reached over a period of many months and reflects his love for the local church and his conviction that "God has spoken to me and I must return."

During his tenure, Piland saw SBC Sunday School enrollment increase by approximately 200,000 to 7.6 million.

(Continued on page 2)

Youth conference plans focus on cults' growth

The second annual Mississippi Youth Missions Conference Apr. 1-2 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, will feature an authority on the cults.

Tommy Starkes, associate professor of Christian missions and world religions at New Orleans Seminary, will be special guest for this conference designed for young people in grades 7-12 and their leaders.

Joining Starkes will be 15 home and foreign missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention who will discuss their lives on the mission fields and talk about ways the young people can help in the missions efforts at home and overseas.

In addition to special music, there will be small group conferences dealing with witnessing, dealing with cults, world missions, home missions, state

missions, knowing God's will, and recreation and missions.

Co-sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union departments, the conference will cost a total of \$25 per person with reservations made by mail only on a first come first served basis, postmarked Feb. 1-Mar. 21. Each one to seven boys and each one to seven girls must have a sponsor of the same sex in attendance.

Registration begins at 1 p.m., Friday, Apr. 1 and the conference concludes at 3 p.m. the next day.

For reservations, write Youth Missions Conference, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571. Registration is limited to the first 380 to respond. Reservation forms were mailed to all pastors.

"Team effort"

Joan Tyler will serve on Resolutions Committee

By Dan Martin

EULESS, Texas (BP)—Calling the appointments a "team effort," Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. has announced the resolutions committee for the 1983 meeting of the SBC in Pittsburgh, including a Mississippian.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, said the appointments are a "three-man effort" between the president and the two vice presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention. "I feel I have done everything humanly possible to make it so," Draper told Baptist Press.

Draper said he was following through on a pledge to make key committee appointments far in advance of the June meeting of the SBC. He made the pledge after the appointments and their release became the subject of controversy before the 1982 annual meeting in New Orleans.

In September, Draper named Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Columbus, chairman of the resolutions committee. He also named three members of the SBC Executive Committee—required in convention bylaws—to serve on the committee. They are LeRay Fowler, pastor of West University Church, Houston; Thurmond George, pastor of First Church, Gilroy, Calif.; and Lois Wenger, a member of First Church, Orlando, Fla.

The new appointments include six persons: a pastor, a retired pastor, an evangelist, a retired director of missions, and two laypersons.

Those named include Joan (Mrs. Charles) Tyler, the wife of a physician in Collins, Miss. She is a member of Collins Church, which has 356 mem-

bers and gave \$17,759 through the Cooperative Program and \$35,431 to all missions causes last year. She is a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Executive Board and Executive Committee, as well as being first vice president of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

John T. Tippet, pastor of Calvary Temple in Savannah, Ga., a former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, a current member of the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee and current chairman of the Georgia Baptist Public Affairs Committee. Calvary Temple contributes 12 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program;

Verlin Kruschwitz, retired pastor of Severns Valley Church of Elizabethton, Ky., and a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He currently is a teacher at Boyce Bible School, a part of Southern Seminary, in Louisville;

Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist from Catrina, Tex., and president of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas. He is a former staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and president of the Texas Baptist Evangelists Conference;

William Rhodes, an attorney,

deacon and Sunday School teacher at Briarlake Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga. He is past moderator of the Atlanta Baptist Association and currently is a member of the advisory committee for the SBC Brotherhood Commission in Memphis. Briarlake church is the number two church in Georgia in Cooperative Program giving.

And W. D. Stogner, recently retired director of the Northwest Baptist Association, Shreveport, La. In 1976, Stogner led the 80 churches of the association to become the first association in Louisiana to give more than \$1 million in a single year through the Cooperative Program. Last year, it gave over \$2 million.

Both John Sullivan, first vice president, and Gene Garrison, second vice president, agreed with Draper that the appointments were a "three-man effort."

Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., said the appointments "are as much mine as they are Jimmy's."

Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, said Draper has been "super to work with. We have been double, triple cautious to make

(Continued on page 2)

Houston church sets \$34 million campaign

By Louis Moore

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)—Houston's Second Baptist Church has announced a \$34 million expansion which will include the largest church sanctuary in Houston and apparently the largest Southern Baptist worship facility in the world.

The church hopes to use a pay-as-it-goes plan, raising the \$34 million during the period of construction, with completion anticipated in 1986. The church currently has only \$4 million marked for the expansion.

Until the Second Baptist project was announced Jan. 17, Houston's largest church construction project was the \$9 million expansion First Baptist began nearly two years ago. That project is still underway.

Edwin Young, a Mississippi native and pastor of Second Baptist, said the church is rapidly running out of space and faces a "stop growing or start building" situation. The church's current sanctuary seats 1,350 and is filled to capacity in both Sunday morning worship services. Young will speak at the Mississippi Evangelism/Bible Conference next month.

The new auditorium initially will seat 3,600 roughly 1,000 more than the city's largest, First Baptist. The building, to be modified colonial style, can be expanded to seat up to 8,000 persons.

Two separate building projects are contained in the \$34 million expansion: \$25 million for a worship center/education facility of 175,403 square feet, and \$9 million for a school/family life building of 104,841 square feet. The school facility will be used primarily by Second Baptist school, which offers a private education from kindergarten through the twelfth grade and currently has about 800 students.

Funds will be raised in two phases. The church will soon ask its 5,000 resident members to sign pledge cards to pay the \$25 million for the worship center over a three-year period.

The remaining \$9 million will be raised from parents of students, alumni, friends of Second Baptist's school and from foundations and charitable trusts.

The cost of the building will be in addition to the church's \$3.5 million annual budget. Last year the church raised more than \$6 million in total contributions to its budget in various causes, but not including its school. The church contributed about \$500,000 to various missions causes, including some \$162,500 to the SBC unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, representing about 4.5 percent of its budget.

(Moore is religion editor of the Houston Chronicle.)

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Registered nurses Marion Wells (l) of Clinton, Miss., and Irene LeFevre (r) staffed the clinic at Ridgecrest during the final weeks of the 1982 Fall Senior Adult Chautauquas. Wells confided that first aid is a priority of the nurses' station, but "sometimes the best medicine we have to offer is love." Photo by Gail Rothwell.

Clinton nurse gives six weeks to Ridgecrest

By Gail Rothwell

RIDGECREST, N. C.—They do more than dispense Band-Aids and take blood pressure readings. They are on call 24 hours a day, make their office their home and offer friendship to those around them.

Registered nurses Marion Wells and Irene LeFevre staffed the nurses' clinic at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center here during the final weeks of the 1982 Fall Senior Adult Chautauquas.

Wells, from Clinton, Miss., donated six weeks of her time and services to the conference center, while LeFevre worked the last three weeks of the Chautauquas.

During the week they get to know many of the participants as friends and listeners. Wells confided that sometimes the best medicine they offer through the clinic is love. We found that a hug sometimes does senior adults as much good as anything else we could offer them," she said. Wells explained that the first priority of the nurses' station is first aid, but "we are also here to support

the spiritual aspect of the conference center."

Both Wells and LeFevre have worked at the Ridgecrest clinic before. Wells, retired from the Veterans Administration Hospital, explained, "I decided this is how I wanted to spend my retirement years—donating my time and services where they are needed." She is director of the homebound program at First Baptist Church, Clinton.

When not at Ridgecrest, LeFevre works either as a private duty or hospital registered nurse.

Chautauqua coordinator Horace Kerr said the clinic is provided to give senior adults security in knowing medical personnel are on hand if needed.

Kerr, a former Mississippian, supervisor of the Sunday School Board's senior adult section in the family ministry department, said the nurses also have a good relationship with the surrounding medical community.

Senior adult chautauquas are a project of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Oklahoma City First Church okays female deacons' plan

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Members of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, where Southern Baptist Convention Second Vice President Gene Garrison is pastor, voted 232-167 Jan. 16, to change church bylaws to allow women to serve as deacons.

According to Garrison the vote which came following a two-hour discussion, makes the Oklahoma City church the first Southern Baptist congregation in the state to allow women to serve as deacons.

The discussion meeting, attended by 600 to 700 persons, culminated a study which began in March 1981. A nine-member committee to study the role of women in the church conducted an intensive study and correspondence with other churches which also have faced the issue before bringing the matter to the business meeting.

After its two-year study, the committee reported it found nothing in the New Testament to prevent women from becoming deacons. It cited New Testament scriptures, as well as the writings of the early church, to indicate there were women deacons in the First Century churches.

In an interview with Baptist Press, Garrison commented: "I was very proud of our people. There was not one bit of ugliness or anger. It was a very sweet spirited meeting. Both sides were ably represented, and all who spoke did so in a spirit of love and unity. Not one angry, emotional word was spoken."

Those who spoke during the discussion spoke nearly as much about Christian love for one another and remaining unified as they did about their opinion on the issue.

"It is one thing for them to vote they are open to it (ordination of women) and another thing entirely for them to do it," said Ernie Perkins, missions

director for Capital Baptist Association, noting the Oklahoma City church may or may not ordain women to the diaconate.

Perkins added: "I am a fundamentalist with a capital F when it comes to the autonomy of the local church. I be-

lieve First Baptist has every right to do what it feels God's will is for them. The only thing is, of course, that sister churches have a right to determine if they want to have fellowship with a church that has made such a decision."

Dallas' First Church honors \$1 million pledge

DALLAS (BP)—A dream of Pastor W. A. Criswell of First Baptist Church, Dallas, came true when he presented the balance of the church's \$1 million pledge to the Cooperative Program for 1982.

Criswell gave Texas Baptist Executive Director James A. Landes the church's check for \$590,000. Previous contributions for the year have totaled \$410,000.

It is believed to be the first time any church has given \$1 million in support of missions through the Cooperative Program in a single year.

In the fall of 1981, Criswell said, after the church's budget of \$6.5 million had already been adopted, he repeatedly had a dream in which the Lord showed him the need of the world to hear the gospel.

"The Lord said to me, 'I'm asking you to give \$1 million to the Cooperative Program,'" Criswell said.

"It dumbfounded me," he said, but "without any conferences with anybody—there was nobody to confer with—I asked the church to add \$1 million to the budget, to oversubscribe it by another \$1 million."

Criswell said the deacons thought it was a fantastic dream to "out of the blue" ask the church to add another \$1

million, but faced with the challenge, the church pledged \$7.8 million.

Throughout the year, Criswell said, there was speculation whether the pledge could be met, but at the last deacons' meeting it was announced the pledge to the Cooperative Program would be made good.

Deacon Vice Chairman Jack Brady said at the check presentation ceremonies that the church had many needs that \$1 million could have been used for, "but the great host of our deacons felt that this was a commitment we were going to keep."

"Sense of Congress" condemns persecution

WASHINGTON (BP)—A sense of Congress resolution condemning "all forms of religious persecution and discrimination whenever and wherever they occur" has passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

The resolution is the result of nine hearings held by the House Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations according to Rep. Don L. Bonker, D-Wash., chairman of the subcommittee and sponsor of the measure.

"From all available evidence presented to the subcommittee there can be no doubt that the free exercise of religion is limited in most parts of the world," Bonker said.

"One thing is certain," Bonker said, "religious persecution will never be checked unless someone takes the time to monitor and expose what is going on and governments are held accountable."

The resolution calls for the President and other U.S. officials to seek the establishment of a working group on the elimination of religious discrimination and persecution of the 39th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

U.S. House members re-introduce ERA

WASHINGTON (BP)—More than half the members of the new U.S. House of Representatives joined in reintroducing the Equal Rights Amendment on the first day of the 98th Congress.

Though a 10-year effort to win ratification of ERA by three-fourths of the state legislatures fell three states short when an extended deadline expired last summer, backers of the measure remain optimistic of its eventual passage.

The one-sentence amendment states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

ERA remains a controversial issue among Southern Baptists. During its 1981 annual meeting in Los Angeles, the Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution on the role of women which stated the convention "does not endorse the Equal Rights Amendment."

Nonetheless, the statement encouraged "all persons to be sensitive to the contemporary pressures facing women."

Joan Tyler will . . .

(Continued from page 1)
sure the ones we appoint represent Southern Baptists."

Draper also said he has requested that Bonham call a meeting of the entire resolutions committee, possibly in early May, to discuss ways to streamline the exhaustive process. "I have asked him to do so and he has agreed, although a date has not yet been set," Draper added.

(Martin is BP news editor.)

Harry Piland

(Continued from page 1)
He also originated the idea for 8.5 by '85, a goal which includes plans to increase Sunday School enrollment to 8.5 million by Sept. 30, 1985.

Piland said he regrets that he will not have the opportunity to work with Lloyd Elder, if Elder is elected Feb. 1 as president of the board. "I affirm his (Elder's) nomination with my whole being. I know him to be a man of high integrity, great competence and deep compassion."

Ralph McIntyre, director of the Bible teaching division, was named interim department director, effective March 1.

A native of Texas, Piland also served as minister of education at Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, and James Avenue and University Baptist churches of Fort Worth.

capsules

Evangelicals oppose

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (EP)—A survey of evangelical Protestant students shows just under one-fourth approve of the goals of the Moral Majority says a report in Church & State magazine.

The survey contradicts the fears of some social commentators that the estimated 40 million American evangelicals represent a seedbed of fanaticism imposing their views on others, according to Surveyor James Davison Hunter, who was director of social research for the Lutheran Church in America before coming to Westmont.

More than 71 percent of the student sample said they feel "people should be free to believe what they want even if it is very different from the way I believe." Nine percent said they disagreed and 19 percent said they couldn't decide. On whether people should be free to live lifestyles very different from their own, 57 percent of the students agreed and 20 percent disagreed.

Only 6.3 percent agreed with the statement that "people who hold political ideas which are un-American should be kept from voicing their opinions."

England prepares

HARROW, Middlesex, England (EP)—"Mission England," slated for 1984, is being described as one of the largest evangelistic crusades ever conducted in this country. British Christians and churches are co-operating in the national outreach to five regions of the country.

Evangelist Billy Graham will preach in six large football stadiums in a nine-week period from May to July.

\$14 million for TV

LYNCHBURG, Va. (EP)—Jerry Falwell said in Lynchburg, Va., that his Old-Time Gospel Hour raised more than \$14 million, including \$1 million in one day, in a December fund drive for prime-time television broadcasts.

Basketball caps

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court announced Jan. 17 it will not decide if Orthodox Jewish high school basketball players have a constitutional right to wear yarmulkes, or skull caps, in competition.

Over the objections of justices Thurgood Marshall and Harry A. Blackmun, the court majority turned aside a challenge by two Orthodox

High court won't review Lubbock schools' case

(Continued from page 1)
this action indicates that this was not the clear test of the issue that is needed."

Strickland added, "The issue of equal access to school facilities for activities before and after school is not really resolved by this case. There were too many other complicating factors."

Like Strickland, James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., said the court's action was understandable. Rejection of the case, he said, "is yet another example of the old legal maxim that 'bad cases make bad law.'"

Dunn said the Lubbock case was "flawed from the beginning, mainly because of the school board's open defiance, over a 17-year period, of the Court's correct rulings in 1962 and 1963." In those years the high court ruled that states and localities may not under the Constitution require prayer and Bible reading in public school classrooms.

Dunn also noted the possibility of future litigation over the issue of student access to school facilities for religious gatherings, noting that "simple fairness . . . demands recognition that the Court did not affirm the decision of the Court of Appeals," but "simply declined to review that decision, leaving open the possibility that a cleaner case . . . may be reviewed in the future."

Addressing the ongoing problem of misinterpretation of the high court's 1962 and 1963 rulings, Dunn added: "All of us who are concerned about the proper role of religion in public schools should redouble our efforts to educate the educators to what the Supreme Court did and did not decide 20 years ago. What it decided was that government may not write and require the recitation of prayers as devotional exercises. What it did not do was rule out truly voluntary prayer, prayer as described by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount."

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., who was joined by 23 other senators in asking the court to review the lower panel's decision, said he is introducing a new bill designed to protect the right of students to exercise freely their religion and at the same time keep schools from unconstitutionally establishing religion. The bill specifies that

The honeymoon is a short period of doting between dating and debating.

Texas church gets million dollar gift

DALLAS (BP)—An elderly Texas couple has given \$1 million to Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas to help finance the church's "Together With Vision" building program.

Pastor Bruce McIver told the congregation 18 months ago that an anonymous challenge gift of \$1 million had been pledged if the church would match it. The church accepted the challenge, pledged another \$1.5 million, "and started giving immediately, even though they didn't know when the gift would actually be made," McIver said.

In October the church received \$250,000 from the couple and on Dec. 19, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Stanley came forward at the end of the morning service and handed McIver a check for \$750,000 and a note: "God has been so good to us. We just want to help this church reach out to people."

The couple and their children wanted to remain anonymous until the sale of the family pharmaceutical business had been completed.

The offer shocked McIver since the couple had been attending Wilshire for only six months when the building campaign was announced. "They weren't very well known at the church and Mrs. Stanley wasn't even a member at the time," he said. "I baptized her about a year ago."

Stanley, 73, had been a Baptist most of his adult life but had not been very active. But after surviving open heart surgery he realized, "the Lord brought me through this and I realize I've never done much for God so we felt this was something we could do."

Hispanic woman ordained in N.O.

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Mrs. Justo Gutierrez, a mother of two daughters, has been ordained by New Orleans' First Spanish American Baptist Church.

Although Gutierrez is the third woman ordained to the ministry by New Orleans Baptist churches she is the first Hispanic, Raphael Melian, associate director of Louisiana Baptist language missions, said.

"Her ordination is the first of a Hispanic woman in the Southern Baptist Convention according to the Home Mission Board and is significant because cultural practices among Hispanics place women as homemakers," he explained. "It is unusual for a Spanish congregation to ordain women."

Gutierrez is working part-time with the New Orleans Baptist Association office as associate director of education and training working with ethnic congregations and with the First Spanish American Baptist Church as minister of education.

The ordaining council was composed of 12 ordained Baptist ministers who spent more than an hour and a half interrogating before voting unanimously for ordination. Melian said there were "a few ministers who chose not to attend the council because a woman was being considered."

"SBC Today" selected as publication's name

ATLANTA (BP)—SBC Today has been selected as the name for a new national publication dealing with issues facing the Southern Baptist Convention, Editor Walker L. Knight said.

Knight, director of the editorial department for the SBC Home Mission Board for 23 years, recently requested early retirement to start the new independent publication. Although general plans for the publication were announced then, a name had not been selected.

SBC Today was picked from a list of more than 50 possible names, said Knight, because "it best describes what the publication is."

"It conveys the feeling that this is news for the SBC, and that it deals with what is happening in the SBC right now," Knight said.

At Oakhurst Baptist Church, where Knight is a member, more than 45 persons responded when Knight challenged the church to form a mission group to help him with editing and production, circulation promotion, bookkeeping, and office management.

The church also is providing office space in their building at 222 East Lake Dr., Decatur, Ga. Office furnishings have been donated by friends and family members.

First issue of the 24-page monthly tabloid is planned in April. Knight, 58, will retire from the Home Mission Board on March 1.

The publication will be financed, Knight said, with contributions from individuals, churches, and from subscriptions and advertising. Annual

subscription rate for "SBC Today" will be \$15 a year, with a pre-publication offer of \$25 for two years. Ads will cost \$650 a page.

Mrs. McCall dies

Mrs. John G. McCall, 61, died of cancer in Vicksburg Sunday, Jan. 23. She was the wife of John G. McCall, who was for 30 years pastor of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, before he retired last year, and who is a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Wed., Jan. 26.

Mrs. McCall was the former Wilma Grass, native of Charlotte, N. C.

She was a graduate of Wake Forest University and Southern Baptist Seminary and had served as director of Christian education at Ashboro Street Church, Greensboro, N.C. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, where she was a leader in WMU, Sunday School, and Church Training.

Survivors include her husband; two sons, John G. McCall, III, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Tenn., and Dennis, of Fort Worth, Tex., student at Southwestern Baptist Seminary; her mother, Mrs. I. D. Grass, and her sister, Ida Grass, both of Charlotte, N.C.; and one brother, John Grass, a Baptist pastor serving in West Point, Va.

Tithing and world missions

Other than prayer, the two major essentials of world missions are men and money. Baptists believe in the value of a trained missionary and the programs and institutions necessary to equip God-called people for effective service.

Baptists also believe strongly in planting churches on the mission fields of the world. Missions cost money.

Often the missions efforts are limited by a lack of support. There is a lack of support because many of the churches do not give strong mission support through the Cooperative Program.

Many of the churches do not give strong support to missions because too many members of the church are robbing God of at least a tithe of their income for God's work. Many church members do not give at least a tithe because they have not been effectively taught and committed to Christian priorities in their family budgets.

A conservative estimate of a tithe from Southern Baptists would be seven times what they are currently giving—seven times more!



A few dedicated church members give beyond the basic tithe. The great need of the churches today is for church leaders to commit themselves to continue to teach the people until they understand and begin to establish godly goals in their giving.

A few years ago, when this nation was moving through a major national moral crisis, the leaders of the major TV networks offered Southern Baptists an opportunity to speak by TV to the nation. The opportunity was presented to the SBC Executive Committee with the proposed costs of making a TV tape. Because the committee did not have the funds available, the opportunity was lost—forever.

A Mississippi layman said afterward, "As I listened to the request, I figured what it would cost and had we had only 25 cents more from every Southern Baptist, we could have spoken to the nation at the time of a major national crisis."

What a tragedy! Only 25 cents more! "The tithe is the Lord's. It is holy unto the Lord" (Lev. 27:30).

the meetings must be voluntary and must not involve any "activity which is in and of itself unlawful."

WANTED

A Computer Scientist with a commitment to Christian Higher Education

In expanding its computer science program, Ouachita Baptist University is seeking a Ph.D. in Computer Science or in Mathematics with a concentration in Computer Science. Rank and salary are flexible and will depend on the qualifications of the applicant.

If interested please contact:

Thomas J. Turner
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923
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BR2

Gulfshore changes policy on reservation requests

By Frank Simmons, manager Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

The Camps & Assembly Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has adopted some policy changes influencing reservation requests, deposits, and guidelines at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These changes are being put into effect now in an attempt to provide better service to all of the churches and people who will be attending Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this summer.

Reservation requests are accepted by mail only and must be postmarked on or after March 1. Send all reservation requests to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571.

The Gulfshore office will wait three working days to begin processing requests so that all mail postmarked March 1 will be received. Requests then will be chosen to give all churches an opportunity regardless of when they were received by the Assembly within the three day period. If a church does not receive its first choice of dates, it will be placed on a waiting list (unless otherwise requested) as well as receiving its second choice of conferences.

Out of state churches may begin making reservations on April 15. Requests postmarked prior to March 1

will be returned, regardless of when received.

Specific information is needed when making a reservation request. This includes type of accommodations desired; whether a family, individual, or church group; exact ages of children; and church's name.

Churches making reservations for groups of people must indicate the number of males, females, and couples in the group and the accommodations desired (unless it is a conference involving a package plan). Requests for reservations must be accompanied by a deposit of \$25 per person with a maximum of \$50 per family. Church group requests require \$25 per person age two and up.

In the event of cancellations, refunds will be made for the full amount if the request is received 61 days ahead of time; one half is refunded if the request is received 31-60 days ahead and no refund can be made if the request is received 30 days or less prior to the conference. All requests for refunds must be received in writing at Gulfshore. Block reservations without names, or number of males and females, and/or the required amount of fees are unacceptable and will not receive confirmation.

The registration/deposit procedure is an attempt to insure the validity of the reservation and to encourage

people, after securing reservations, to carefully evaluate their position prior to 60 days before their conference.

In an effort to combat a developing trend in Mississippi's own Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, the idea to change the registration/deposit procedure was initiated. The enthusiasm and excitement of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly has certainly been well received by many people across the state; and this enthusiasm did contribute to one of its problems—the problem of the no-show—that is, a person or church which made a reservation but for one reason or another was unable to attend and fulfill the obligation.

This means some individual, family, or group will be denied the opportunity to attend or they have to be put on a waiting list and then would change their plans because of the uncertainty involved. It results in a denial of being involved in an event they had wanted to be a part of. For the Assembly, it produces a loss of revenue because the rooms may go unused, as people are not available to substitute or fill in at the last minute.

The 1982 figures show that the "no-show" rate at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly approached 15 percent, costing the Mississippi Baptist Convention thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

Congress attracts 7,000

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (EP)—Seven thousand young people from 30 European countries gathered here at the Palais de Beaulieu for the six-day Mission '83 Congress.

The largest delegation of 1,600 came from Switzerland. The German group included 1,000 from West Germany and 3 from East Germany. Other East European nations represented were Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. To communicate with the youth from the 30 countries, conference proceedings were translated into 12 languages.

Spokesmen for the European Missionary Association, which sponsored the Congress, felt that a large number of participating Christian young people would respond to the challenge to personal involvement in world mission.

Two hundred and thirty mission agencies presented the largest mission exhibit ever assembled in Europe. The Congress focused both on biblical teaching regarding Christian procla-

mation and demonstration of the gospel and upon an understanding of the world in which Christians are called to serve today.

Newton named to Amsterdam

ATLANTA (BP)—Jim Newton, editor of news and information services for the SBC Home Mission Board, has been named news director for Amsterdam '83, an international conference on evangelism sponsored by evangelist Billy Graham.

Newton, 46, will take a leave of absence from his duties at the Home Mission Board, moving to Amsterdam Jan. 26 for the seven-month assignment.

He will work with Ed Plowman, director of communications for Amsterdam '83, in handling advance media contacts and directing news coverage of the conference, slated July 12-21, 1983.

Amsterdam '83, an international conference for itinerant evangelists, will seek to "train, inspire and equip traveling evangelists of the world," said Graham, explaining the purpose of the meeting.

About 2,500 evangelists, most of them from Third World countries, will be invited to attend the conference. Evangelists invited from North America and other areas who can afford it are being asked to sponsor an evangelist from the Third World.

Nothing gets out of hand faster than money.

Poland, Uganda appeal for more Bibles

The American Bible Society reports two countries, one in Europe and one in Africa, have special needs for Bibles which run far short of current supplies.

Alice Ball, an ABS executive, reports that there is an "open door" to produce any number of Scriptures in Poland now. However, there are acute shortages of paper, ink, and binding materials needed to set the presses rolling.

She notes that Scriptures can be produced in Poland for half what they cost in western countries, though costs could rise as much as 600 percent in the coming year.

From Africa, the churches of Uganda have sent an urgent appeal to the ABS, saying their people are crying out for Bibles in record numbers.

They need half a million Bibles in English as well as many in the local languages right now, according to ABS reports. But only a trickle are said to be finding their way into the country.

At the root of the problem is a lack of funds to buy them from outside Uganda. With the economy in tatters, authorities have put an embargo on sending what little money there is to other countries.

Moreover, local printers cannot even begin to handle the production needed to meet the overwhelming demand. So, for new Ugandans must depend on people from other countries to underwrite printing and shipping costs.

As more and more children enter the school system, where the Bible is taught, 200,000 copies are going to be needed each year into the foreseeable future.

National Baptist students set Jackson retreat

Grady Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and Hickman Johnson, pastor of Parish Street Baptist Church in Jackson, are among the speakers for the National Baptist Student Retreat set for Mar. 17-20 in Jackson.

This convention, designed for black Baptist college students, will feature a gospel choir concert, a commissioning ceremony for summer missionaries, a "Miss BSU" pageant, a midnight service, and a Christian "night club."

Seminars during the retreat, which takes place at the Mississippi Trade Mart, will total 63, including theological and moral topics such as women's ordination, dancing, dealing with cults, and "closet" Christians.

V.A. chaplains will sponsor one day seminar

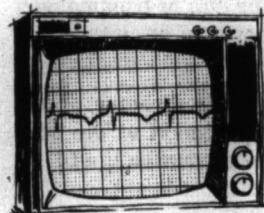
The Chaplain Service of the V.A. Medical Center in Jackson is sponsoring a one day seminar, "Moral/Ethical/Legal Dilemmas in Patient Care," Thursday, Feb. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The program will feature William C. Cushman, M.D. and Jack H. Madden, J.D., both of the V.A., and Myron C. Madden, Ph.D., Director of Department of Pastoral Care at Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans. In addition to individual addresses, each will serve on a panel for dialogue with the audience.

The seminar will be held in room F-127, Recreation Hall at the Center. Free parking is available on the north side of the Center behind the Research Building in Lots C and D. The canteen will be open for those who desire a noon meal on the station. Other facilities are available nearby. Overnight participants should arrange for their own accommodations.

Information on nearby motels and matters relating to the conference may be obtained by calling Chaplain Service, (601) 362-4471, extension 1386.

There will be no fee, but pre-registration is requested by Feb. 3. Those wishing to pre-register may call the number above. Wilbur M. Irwin, pastor, Forest Hill Baptist Church, is the Protestant chaplain; Robert L. Dimond, is chief of the Chaplain Service.



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Relating to adult "children" as peers

Some of us are in the middle. We have aging parents and children who are now adults. When does parenting end?—M.A.S.

Parenting should end when both the parent and the "child" considers each other as peers, to be able to look across the table and relate as friend to friend in confidence. Sometimes older parents become dependent upon their children for counsel and the role is reversed. As long as both understand what is happening, this does not create problems. However, each should resist the temptation to manipulate the other into role reversal. Further, it is often vital for either one to retain independence with necessary assertiveness. One of the most difficult achievements is for the parent to regard the right and responsibility of the

adult sibling to have his own value system. It does hurt deeply sometimes to see them enrolling in the University of Hard Knocks and watch them fall on their faces. But there comes a time, after you have trained them up in the way they should go—when you must cut them loose and let them go—with a prayer and hope!

Just four other suggestions to think about on the parental relations with adult children: (1) receive their affection with gratitude; (2) redeem quickly any brokenness in understanding on relationships; (3) refresh them in your unconditional love; (4) radiate your Christian faith in all your relationships.

Address inquiries to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

MC students will be "On Track" next week



Yearly



McKeever

CLINTON—"On Track" will be the theme for the 1983 Spiritual Enrichment Week Jan. 31 through Feb. 4 at Mississippi College as students come together to hear religious leaders from three states lead out in lecture and discussion. L.Y.P.E. sessions.

Student co-chairmen Joyce Smith of New Orleans, La., and Chip Wilbanks of

Corinth report that special services will be held each day, starting with chapel services at 10 a.m. on Monday in Nelson Auditorium. There will be evening sessions on Monday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B. C. Rogers Student Center, plus dorm discussion groups at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Enrichment Week team will also be holding other meetings on campus, meeting with various classes, and conducting individual counseling sessions with students.

Composing the visiting team will be Mrs. Landrum P. (Jo Ann) Leavell of New Orleans, La., wife of the president of New Orleans Seminary and the mother of a Mississippi College student; Joe McKeever, pastor of the First Church of Columbus, cartoonist and speaker to college students; Dan Yearly, pastor of University Church in Coral Gables, Fla., and Keith Tonkel, pastor of the Wells Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson and writer and producer of a radio series.

Festival invites churches to prepare original drama

The annual Church Recreation Drama Festival invites churches to prepare skits, monologues, dialogues, choral readings, mime, or puppetry for presentation. To be held Apr. 15-16 at First Church, Grenada, the weekend conference will feature Everett Robertson, Baptist Sunday School Board, church recreation drama consultant, along with a number of Mississippi drama specialists.

Ministers of Music are encouraged to attend the class on music, worship and drama on Saturday. The Church Music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is co-sponsoring the Drama Festival with the Church Training department.

The Drama Festival will begin Fri-

day evening at 7 p.m. with a dramatic worship service. After classes and performances on Saturday the conference will conclude at 3:30 p.m. Classes in puppetry, clowning, music and drama and "The Church Drama Leader" will be offered Saturday.

The Drama Festival is open to youth and adults interested in church drama. There is no cost for the conference except participants meals, travel, and lodging. All participants are asked to make reservations with the Church Training department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. For more information concerning the performances contact Robin Nichols, Church Training department or Susan Clark, Church Music department, Jackson.

Med Center workshop will relate to cancer

The University of Mississippi Medical Center will present a workshop on the psychological and social impact of cancer on March 3 in Jackson.

The program is designed for nurses, social workers, ministers and others who are involved in the care of cancer patients.

Sponsors are the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in cooperation with the American Cancer Society, Mississippi Division, Inc., and the UMC Division of Continuing Health Professional Education. Course coordinators are Jan M. Evers, R.N., M.N., assistant professor of nursing

and associate dean for continuing education, and Patsy H. Carroll, R.N., M.N., assistant professor of nursing.

Free for the workshop is \$35. Continuing education credit of .6 CEU is offered, and the program has been submitted to the Mississippi Nurses' Association Continuing Education Recognition Program Review Committee for approval of six contact hours.

For more information, contact Continuing Education, at the Medical Center, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216. Phone 987-4914.

Secretaries' meet: April

The statewide Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference is set for Apr. 4-5 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. This year's conference will concentrate on special skills workshops.

The workshops include working with bulletins, to be led by Dennis Conniff III who is on the staff of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Other workshop topics will be staff relations, membership records, filing, letter writing, study course records, and sessions for general secretaries, music, pastors, educational and financial secretaries.

Music and devotional leader for the conference will be Gary Anglin, minis-

ter of music for Alta Woods Church in Jackson.

Harold Kitchings, director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, will lead a general session on "Developing a Healthy Attitude."

Leon Emery, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries department, which sponsors the conference, will speak on "Developing a Healthy Self-Image."

The Mississippi Baptist Secretarial Association will hold a business meeting during the conference and will host a banquet. More information on the banquet will be available later.

Thursday, January 27, 1983

When we love, we give up the center of ourselves.—Rollo May

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Carl Mays, director of Creative Ministries, Inc. since its founding in 1973, is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author/composer of THE CLOWN (Benson Company), YOU CAN DO IT! (Broadman Press), MR. ADAMS: A PARABLE FOR PARENTS & OTHERS (Broadman), THE MAGIC OF J.B. (Broadman), CELEBRATION: A WRITER IN SEARCH OF A PLAY (Broadman) and six other dramas published by Baker's Plays.

Carl has planned and led in conferences for the Baptist Sunday School Board, the Baptist Home Mission Board, and has been worship leader several times at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers. Carl will be leading in the Bible studies for the Spring Fling and will direct the entire conference, featuring...

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Darrell Robinson
Pastor
Dauphin Way Baptist Church
Mobile, Alabama

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Editorials

by don mcgregor

Bold missions and evangelism

What is Bold Mission Thrust, and how does one become involved in it? Southern Baptists flung the concept of Bold Mission Thrust out into the world in 1977 and have been at work trying to move toward accomplishment of its purpose since that time. It is simply to make available a Christian witness to everyone in the world by the end of this century.

We are trying hard; but, of course, the task cannot be accomplished by human strength. We'll have to continue to ask the Lord for help. If we'll ask, he will help.

But how does one get involved? How do you plug in? How does one go about finding out what to do?

The answers are myriad. They are to be found all around, and one begins

by paying attention to circumstances surrounding himself.

That brings us to the subject of the moment. The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference will be held Feb. 7 to 9 at First Baptist Church, Starkville; and surely that conference can provide a starting place or a refueling stop for Bold Mission Thrust. Evangelism is what Bold Mission Thrust is all about.

As has been the case for the past several years, the Evangelism Conference will be combined with a Bible conference to provide a rich and meaningful experience for all who will make it their business to be in attendance.

Historically, the evangelism conferences across the nation have been particularly well attended. There is good

reason, for they offer a storehouse of inspiration and strengthening fellowship.

The Bible conferences have been added to our Mississippi Evangelism conferences to add an additional dimension of wealth to the wealth that was already the legacy of the conferences. A study of the line-up of program personalities detailed in last week's Baptist Record will serve to point out the experience that is to be expected by attending this conference.

So the Evangelism Conference will provide the inspiration and the incentive for efforts that we choose to call Bold Mission Thrust. The Bible conference will provide the tools with which to apply those efforts. Those who can find it possible to be there can

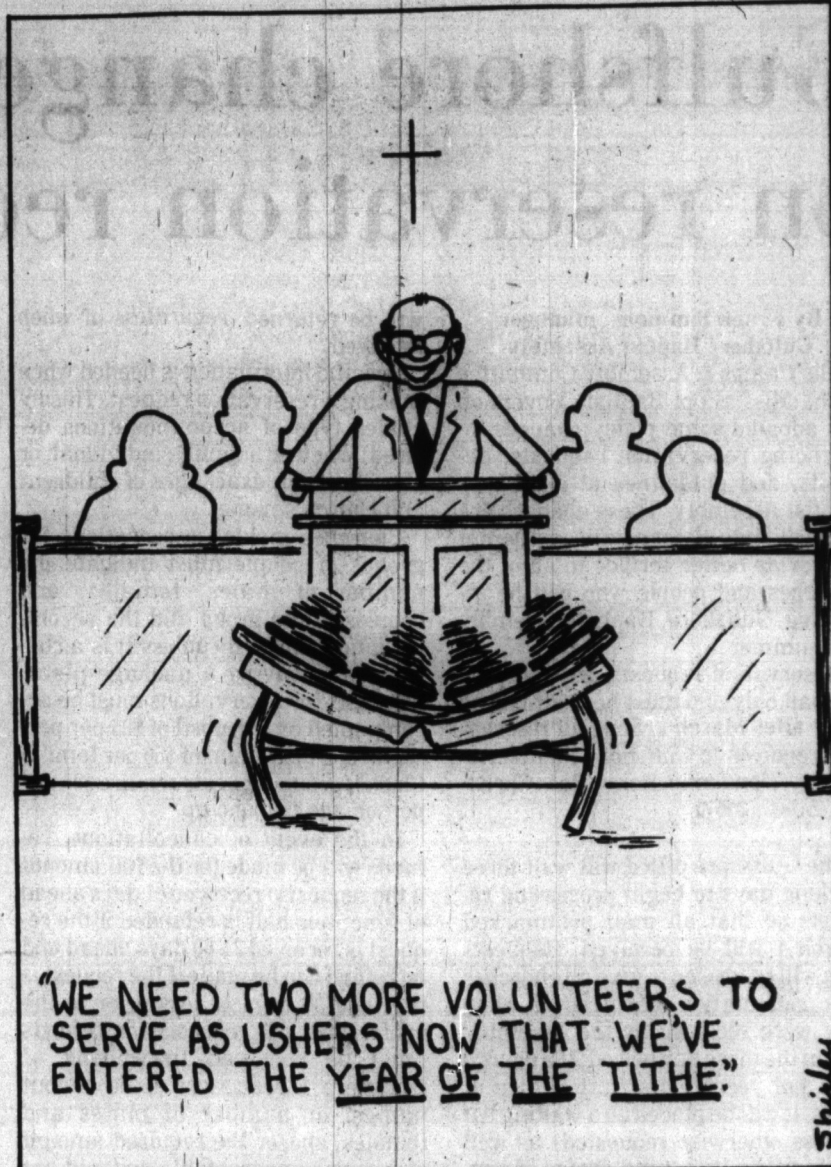
hardly afford to miss it.

But then, those who have been there before already know that. They will be back. Those who haven't attended one of these conferences would do well to find out what they are all about.

The experience is guaranteed to please and inspire.

The conference this year takes on special significance. It will be the first one for which Evangelism Director Guy Henderson has had full responsibility. He moved into that position, succeeding Roy Collum, in mid 1981. This conference is the last one for Sunday School Director Bryant Cummings, whose retirement has been announced for June 30 of this year.

This, no doubt, will be a first-class conference.



Motivation and the Legislature

Rumors have a way of flying around, and one has surfaced concerning the Legislature. It is that the bill on pornography that has been introduced in the House will not be allowed to get out of committee.

That is interesting but confusing. Several factors are at play in this matter, though the writer does not in any wise pretend to know what all of the factors are. It is known, however, that several voices in the House, including that of the speaker, Buddie Newman, have called for a shorter session than ordinarily would be expected, using as the excuse the fact that there already has been a called session of the Legislature at some amount of expense to the taxpayers. When it was noted that a short session would tend to leave a goodly amount of legislation untouched, it was indicated that the pornography bill would be passed.

The only pornography bill noted in the Baptist Record's list of two weeks ago that has been filed in the House was H 245 (and its companion, H 246) that was filed by Stone Barefield of Hattiesburg. The bill was assigned to the Judiciary B Committee, and the committee chairman is Barefield. Ordinarily the committee chairman has a great deal to do with the success of a bill by the way he handles it.

Barefield's bill in the House is de-

signed to prohibit the distribution of obscene material. There are two bills in the Senate designed to do the same thing. Both Senate bills would make the distribution of obscene materials a misdemeanor. One is S 2161 by Burkes and others, and the other is S 2358 by Usey and others. These two are assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

So even if the bill in the House dies in committee, there still is a chance that a pornography bill could be enacted into law. Readers would do well to be in touch with their senators and representatives and with the members of the committees mentioned to express their viewpoints. The committees were listed in the issue of Jan. 13 (House) and the issue of Jan. 20 (Senate).

In the meantime, a number of other bills of interest have been filed. Among them is, who would have guessed it, a bill to create a county racing commission in certain counties. It is H 717, filed in the House by Millette and assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. This should serve to remind us that gambling and liquor interests do not give up. Once they have made their minds up that they want something, they keep chipping away. They know from experience that their opponents

will eventually tire and quit fighting.

The members of Legislature defeated a gambling bill last year. If they are to continue to do so, they are going to need the help of their constituents.

Other bills of interest are these:

H 617 (Lee, and others) Provide for sentence of life imprisonment with or without parole in capital cases.

Judiciary B

H 604 (Owens, Raney) Unlawful for package retailers to sell alcoholic beverages on certain legal holidays.

Ways and Means

H 652 (Stennis, Allen) Revise schedules of controlled substances.

Judiciary A

H 663 (Horton) Increase penalty for sale of alcoholic beverages to minors.

Ways and Means

S 2594 (Pittman, by request) Re-quire marriage license renewal after 1 year of marriage.

Judiciary

S 2596 (Pittman) Prohibit legislators from receiving compensation from lobbyists.

Judiciary

S 2617 (Smith, 48th) Authorize imposition of curfews by counties.

County Affairs

H 692 (Campbell) Certain hunting on Sunday prohibited.

Game and Fish

H 709 (McNatt, and others) Provide grants to students attending independent colleges.

Appropriations, Uni-

versities

HCR 34 (Junkin, and others) Amend Constitution; authorize lotteries in the state.

Constitution

HCR 40 (Barefield) Memorialize Congress to amend constitution to authorize restriction of rights of aliens, persons convicted of crimes, and minors.

Rules

S 2644 (Johnson) Any person driving while under the influence of alcohol causes death of another shall be guilty of manslaughter.

Judiciary

S 2684 (Ellington) Provide for sterilization operations for certain incapacitated adults.

Judiciary

H 682 (Dollar) Question of calling state constitutional convention shall be submitted to voters at 1983 general election.

Constitution

The work of the members of the Legislature is important in the lives of every one of us. They depend on us to determine the direction they need to go as they enact legislation that will affect each of us. Who they hear from will determine what they do in many cases. That is only right. We must not fail to share our thoughts and convictions with them in matters of concern to us.

And if we find we have a lack of concern, we had better examine our own motivation.

Guest opinion

Stagnation or growth

By Guy Henderson

"Our church will never grow much. Prospects in this area are few, no newcomers are moving in, and the young move out soon after high school graduation. About all we can count on is to baptize a few of our Juniors and Intermediates each year."

This could be heard in a number of church fields across our state. Meanwhile, out on the edge of town is an old service station with a Pentecostal sign. They've been meeting there for a year. About 75 people are now attending. A Kingdom Hall sign adorns the front of a re-modeled home in the same town. They have been meeting for only a few months. Mormon missionaries have been knocking on doors, and now at least two cars are driving to a nearby larger city for the Mormon worship.

The Baptist church has slipped a little in attendance, but the offering is up, and basically they are holding their own. However, a survey would reveal that 125 people have begun attending other churches in the past two years. "We certainly don't need another church in town," they exclaimed. Tell it to the Pentecostals or the Mormons! Inactive Baptists are some of their best prospects. "We've tried to reach them. They won't come." Tell it to the Pentecostals or Mormons! This erosion of our church rolls has been taking place for a dozen years.

What would a real census reveal in our community? Has there been a people search in the last year? Are prospects for our churches all that scarce? Mississippi has 2.6 million

people with about 38 percent being ethnic—blacks, Hispanic, Chinese, Indian, etc. This means there are about 1.8 million white people. Estimate church attendance in all churches—white, black, Chinese, Indian—and probably not more than 800,000 would be regular in church attendance. This means 1.8 million are not likely to be in church on Sunday. We need a church roll revival. The fields are white; the harvest awaits.

Yet there is a nagging doubt that more of the iceberg of unconcern is beneath the barrage of statistics. There is, of course, the "greying of America." Retired people, 65 and over, are an increasing part of our population. This age group, as a rule, has pretty well determined the course of their spiritual life; however, churches are reporting more and more baptisms in this age span. Then, religious traditionalism must be figured in somewhere. This involves provincial ideas rooted deep in regionalism, patriotism, and much other religious baggage brought aboard the gospel express. In bygone days, appeals cast in this direction could reap a good return, and full many a minister has worked it well.

Remain we still unsatisfied! Something is missing! First, what about the prayer outage. We've been able to solve so many problems by flesh and blood that we expect these Jericho walls to tumble at the sight of a balance sheet. Fasting and prayer usually comes into focus only when other means have been exhausted. Jesus took time off from his praying to do his work. We take time off from our work to do our praying. Blinded by the world, captivated by sin, enslaved in the chains of worldly habits, as Sam-

son of old, we lean once more on the pillars of hell. Samson finally prayed.

Be assured that one hour per week is hardly sufficient prayer time for a congregation. The deepening of our spiritual life is dependent on the prayer closet.

Still the evangelism thermometer shows a decided coolness in strategy and planning. We've grown fat on the revival diet but yet are troubled by obesity and cholesterol signs in the blood stream. Convinced are we that a revival bringing in a host of new converts is a real church revival. In our flaccidity, we scarcely noted the open back door telling us that nearly half our converts will be done in less than two years. Discipleship is crucified on the cross of numbers. We run 98 yards only to fumble on the 2 yardline. Dare we have a strategy that calls for enlisting and mobilizing our lay forces and ministering to the total community? We know that many people in our community have rejected the gospel. Dare we ask why? Are we even sure that a clear presentation of the claims of Christ has been extended to them? Real evangelism still has a low priority in so many churches. Clear aims, defined goals, and a true awareness of our objectives is a necessity.

A First Century Christian stepping into a church today would probably be more perplexed over our poor utilization of lay people than over our traffic patterns. Spectators line our pews to see the paid staff perform. Probably not more than 15 percent of lay people are being used. How would you feel if you discovered that only 15 percent of the Marine Corp could carry out their assigned task. Our skill programs are for the chosen few, and a vast reservoir of talents remain untapped.

The witnessing efforts of Mormons, Moonies, the Flower Children, and others have caused many to disparage public witnessing. Yet there is not a more effective way of sharing the good news than person to person. In knowing our community, cultivating friends, ministering to needs, the opportunistic doors will open; and lay people can be more effective "gossippers" of the gospel.

Needless to say, the public mindset today is hardly spiritual. Politics, sports, domestic troubles, and economic inertness claim a major portion of barbershop conversation as well as pre-church small talk. We are being inundated with a baptism of news so that the average man knows more but is unable to draw strength, nor find contentment, in the bulk of known material. The enticing words of man's wisdom will entertain, but it will not convict the heart. The message of Christ, skillfully presented, carries its own credentials. The best presentation is "fleshed out" in believers living as best they can in the spirit of Christ Jesus. "In deeds of love and mercy, thy heavenly Kingdom comes."

This appeal is to discover the people of our community and to recover the art of ministry to the total person; to disdain the world's bowl of porridge and proclaim the hope and forgiveness offered by our Lord. Christ has offered the life-support system to his people. The vital signs grow weaker as we contemplate obeying him or trusting ourselves to the mercy of an unmerciful age.

Guy Henderson is director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words, and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record.

State grants for Baptists

Editor:

H. B. 709, entitled "Student Educational Assistance Grants for Students Enrolled in Independent, Non-profit Colleges" is now before the Universities and Colleges Committee and the Appropriations Committee in the House and the Senate. The Senate has passed the legislation twice, there is heavy support on the House floor, but

the bill has never been reported out from either of the House committees.

I would appreciate your running a list of the committee memberships in your paper so that the voting public can make their feelings on this matter known. The bill must be reported out of both committees no later than Thursday, February 3.

If passed and fully funded, the bill would entitle fulltime, undergraduate Mississippians enrolled in accredited, private colleges in the state a grant equal to a maximum of just 25 percent of the per student subsidy at the state-supported senior colleges—or, currently about \$800 per year. Any academically qualified student who meets admission standards at the private college of his/her choice would be eligible.

The purpose of the legislation is to reduce the ever widening gap between the price of a public and a private college education. The bill does not ask the state to build buildings, to pay salaries, or to subsidize programs. All it asks is that the state provide some means whereby the price of tuition does not totally dictate college choice.

This is not a new concept. Forty-five states have been on the books for as much as two decades in recognizing that higher education tax dollars should be used FOR THE COLLEGE STUDENT. These states have provided aid according to varying formulas and in varying amounts, but they do allow the student some freedom of choice in the selection of a college. Why should a student be forced to

A pray-er and a tither

When God created Ethel McKeithen, he was in the process of making a magnificent person!" said Bill Causey, pastor of Parkway, Jackson, at Camp Garaywa. He's Ethel's pastor, and he was speaking at a luncheon in her honor. Ethel retired Dec. 31 as Baptist Women consultant, Mississippi WMU.

I could not write as fast as he could talk, but among other terms, he called Ethel "a preacher and a pray-er," "a teacher and a tither," and "an administrator and an advisor" who is "dependable and disciplined," and "a good old girl" as well.

That Ethel is an effective speaker I knew from hearing her in chapel, but I didn't know until I read Betty Smith's interesting article about her in alongside that as a teen-ager she was on Meridian High School's debate team one year the team won a state championship. Neither did I know that she helped organize the BSU at Meridian Junior College or that she was BSU president there and also at Delta State.

Before she came to work in the Baptist Building in 1973, she had been education director at Calvary Baptist, Meridian; First, Winnfield, La.; Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Greenville; First, Columbus; and Temple, Hattiesburg. That practically covered every corner of the state. In many places, I've heard folks bragging about how fine and smart Ethel is—and I've always agreed.

On "what to do in retirement," she has half this year mapped out already. January: stay in Meridian, to "see about rental house." February and March: teach home mission study book and lead prayer retreats; March 25-April 11, go to Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay with Marjorie Kelly and other women to teach Marjorie's book, *The Gifted Woman I Am*; April: lead more prayer retreats; May: teach in world missions conferences; June — tour California, for fun; July: go to Eureka Springs, Ark., to see Passion Play; August: (and all "in between")—fish!

Ethel was born in Kemper County, where she and all her family were baptized at Liberty Baptist Church. Her family moved to Meridian when she was 14. (Her dad, W. M. McKeithen, lumberman and farmer, moved his mills to Meridian so his kids could go to school there.) They joined the Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church. "Mrs.

W. B. Abel, the pastor's wife, was my YWA leader. She and my mother and the Lord helped me to know what the Lord wanted me to do with my life," Ethel recalled.

She added, "Daddy was not a preacher, but he tithed and influenced me to tithe. Even when he killed a hog, he would call the preacher, Brother Abel, to 'come get the tithe of this meat' or when he took the corn to market, he would give a tithe of the meal." From her first pay check until now, she said, she has tithed every one. (She taught school briefly after graduation from Delta State, and worked for the state department of education in narcotics education. Her first job after getting a degree from Southern Seminary was as education secretary, Southside, Meridian.)

Her brother, Edward, a Baptist minister, lives at Eight Mile, Ala. His last pastorate before retirement was Trinity, Waynesboro. Her foster brother, E. W. Scott of Wilmer, Ala., is a retired Methodist minister. Her only sister, Mrs. R. D. Beasley, came to their father's funeral in 1950, and on her way back home to California, died from a car wreck.

Ethel's WMU dream has been, she told me, "that every Baptist church, no matter how small, would have a Baptist Women group studying missions and praying for missionaries and giving to missions offerings every month." Prayer retreats, she believes, can have far-reaching spiritual impact. "It thrills me to see women work out prayer schedules to pray for missionaries every day. I've told the women, 'I'd hate to be a missionary who has a birthday between Baptist Women meetings!'"

What frustrates her most is "for a young person or adult to accept responsibility and then not follow through on what they promised to do."

I like to hear Ethel talk about her mother's "sterling prayer life"—how she prayed for her husband 20 years before he became a Christian; how when she lived alone she would walk around talking aloud to the Lord; and about an original little prayer phrase she sometimes used: "Lord, I know you can, and I believe you will."

Ethel, congratulations on your achievements! Now, between fishing trips, take time to write that book about your mother. There's your title waiting—Lord, I know you can, and I believe you will.

enroll in a public university to be entitled to a portion of the higher education tax dollar paid by his family?

Johnnie Ruth Hudson
Executive Secretary
Mississippi Association of
Private Colleges

It will be noted that we ran complete lists of all committees in both the House and the Senate in the past two issues of the BAPTIST RECORD.—Editor

Bells for missionaries

Editor:

The Singing Churchmen of Mississippi are giving leadership to a special mission project to raise approximately \$2,500 to buy a set of handbells in honor of Dr. and Mrs. John McNair. Dr. McNair is a medical missionary in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The McNairs have requested handbells to use in their work with students, churches, and the seminary in Montevideo. Dr. McNair is an honorary member of the Singing Churchmen, having gone with them on two previous mission tours to Brazil and Spain.

Mrs. Agnes Batson, Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Ms. 39205 is serving as the collecting agent.

The Singing Churchmen hope to carry these handbells with them when they visit the McNairs in April on their tour to Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina.

Perry Robinson
Missions Coordinator
Singing Churchmen

It is not doing the thing we like to do, but liking to do the things we have to do, that makes life blessed.—Johann Wolfgang Goethe

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Dentist sinks teeth into lots of Sanyati roles

By Robert O'Brien
SANYATI, Zimbabwe (BP)—John Monroe is an avid worker—some would say a workaholic—with a multitask mind.
Otherwise he'd never keep the personnel-strapped Sanyati Baptist Hospital afloat.
The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed Monroe in 1971 to be a dentist in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia). But the 48-year-old Texan has had to be more versatile than that.
"We dentists are basically mechanics," he joked. "I guess that's why I can fit into all these roles." Monroe serves as administrator, pharmacist, dentist, business manager, purchasing agent and maintenance supervisor at the hospital, a landmark for Baptist work in the southern African nation over the years.
But now it faces hard times.
"Unless we can find at least one physician and other crucial personnel to serve at the hospital its standards will deteriorate and we run the risk of damaging its accreditation by the Zimbabwe government," explained Davis Saunders, the Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa.
The board has four physicians under

appointment for Zimbabwe but the situation is critical at the Sanyati hospital. Giles and Wana Ann Fort work in the capital city of Harare, Maurice Randall is on extended leave of absence and Rob Garrett works out of Sanyati.
Garrett performs surgery at the hospital when he can but he's deeply involved in rebuilding desperately needed rural medical clinics destroyed in the nation's Communist-backed war for independence. Well-trained African medical assistants treat patients but need supervision by a physician, Saunders said.
Garrett has also been laying groundwork for a massive relief and hunger project Southern Baptists will establish to ease the plight of the Tonga people in the drought-plagued Gokwe area.
Monroe, who handles most of the chores a station manager would perform at the sprawling Sanyati Baptist compound, can expect some relief in several months when a hospital administrator arrives following missionary orientation. But he also sees a pharmacist and more nurses as vital personnel needs.
The Foreign Mission Board has sought these professionals, especially

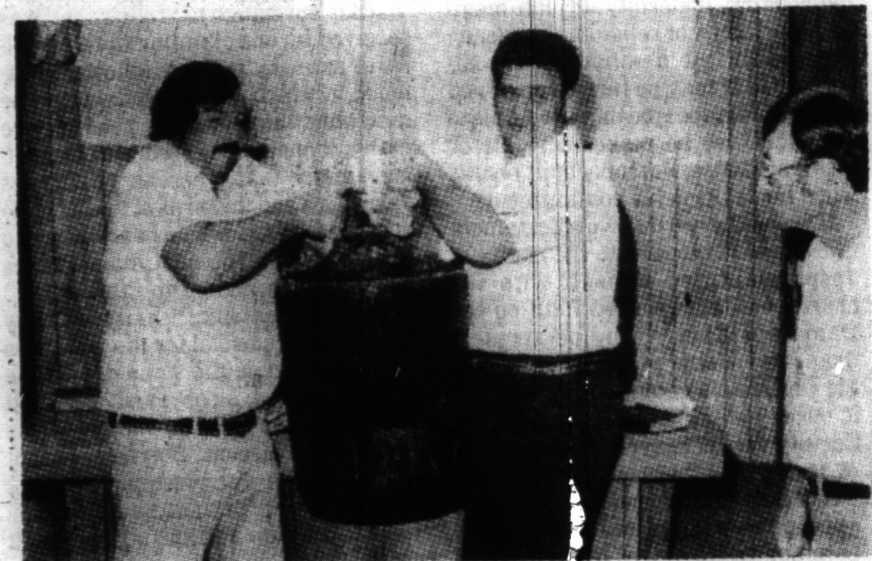
a physician, with limited success.
The hospital, formerly owned by the mission, has been turned over to the Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe and is ending the second year of a five-year phase-out of Southern Baptist financial support.
The phase-out was initiated to allow the hospital's board to make its own decisions based on the realities of the Zimbabwe pattern of socialized medicine and dispensing of government aid to hospitals.
Meanwhile, Monroe and other Southern Baptist hospital personnel keep hanging on, trying to slow down deteriorating standards.
So he can continue to be everywhere at once in his 6 a.m. until-whenever schedule, Monroe has trained his wife Mary as a dental assistant. He also has the help of African staff, three career missionary nurses and several missionary journeymen in maintenance, administration and bookkeeping.
Sometimes the task seems as endless as emptying the ocean with a thimble but hard work and perseverance are no novelty to the Monroes and other missionaries on the Sanyati Baptist compound.
Monroe's hectic schedule calls for him to change gears from drilling a tooth to repairing one of the station's invaluable water wells without a break. Then he meets with missionary journeymen Marty Escoc, who assists with administration and Mark Dewbre, the bookkeeper, to solve a foul-up in ordering equipment.
Word comes in the meantime that equipment has broken down on a ward, while in another section of the 1,500-person compound a sticky personnel problem needs attention. The pumping station under construction, sewage disposal problems and more equipment repairs will call for attention before the day ends. Even when the new administrator arrives there will be more than enough work for him and Monroe. The hospital will still need a missionary physician.
After guerrillas murdered Southern Baptist missionary Mississippian Archie Dunaway in 1978 at the compound, most missionaries including the Monroes, evacuated the Sanyati area and moved to other duties in urban areas until hostilities ended.
But Monroe and Randall, braving the perils of war, drove or flew back regularly each week for about two years to minister to the people and keep the hospital going. A faithful African hospital staff made that possible.
They survived close calls because the guerrillas respected the need for their medical and dental expertise.
After all of that Monroe's not about to lay aside his "thimble" and watch the Sanyati Baptist Hospital sink.
(O'Brien is a missionary journalist based in Kenya.)

Pension board executives discuss rising costs

By Ray Furr
DALLAS (BP)—Rising health-care costs and current trends in retirement planning were the central topics of discussion at the 68th annual church pensions conference Dec. 2-3 which the Southern Baptist Annuity Board helped to host.
Pension board executives from 45 religious affiliations were told Americans must change their lifestyles and reduce medical insurance abuse if they want insurance premiums decreased.
Jerry Brockett, an actuary for the Wyatt Company, said Americans overeat, overdrink, do not get enough exercise and "consume too much noxious agents such as cigarettes, liquor and caffeine."
He noted health-care costs have increased an average of 14 percent per year in the last decade. "I believe we could decrease that by at least 2.8 percent if we will improve our lifestyles," he said.
Concerning abuse Brockett noted that both the doctor and the person insured are responsible. "Sixty percent of the cost difference between the average annual inflation rate (8.5 percent) and the average health-care costs (14 percent) is due to abuse," Brockett

said. Some physicians perform unnecessary surgery so patients should get a second opinion before having a major operation, he continued.
As for the abuse by the patient, "those insured tend to think their financial resources are unlimited when it comes to medical care." Brockett urged conferees to encourage their constituents to reduce unnecessary medical visits and drugs.
C. Allen Stiteler, vice president of Hay-Huggins, an actuarial consulting firm, said that a person who had been retired five years and had experienced a 10 percent inflation rate in those years could expect the real value of his retirement income to decrease to 62 percent of its original value. He predicted the inflation rate would hover around 10 percent for the next five years.
Stiteler said a person would need approximately 61 percent of his current income to maintain his present standard of living and "social security will not meet this estimate." He said individuals need to look to pension plans and personal savings in addition to social security for an adequate retirement income.
Ray Furr writes for the Annuity Board.

Just for the Record . . .



CASON CHURCH's bus ministry in Monroe County promoted High Attendance Sunday with the "World's Largest Popsicle." Posters were handed out on Saturday to homes telling about the popsicle. The children wanted to know if they would get to lick it. At Children's Church, the 175-lb. popsicle was served by eight workers chopping and serving it to 150 children. The left-overs were served again, and there is enough left to serve one more time.
Cason has 72 workers in its Children's Church and bus ministry. Two teams of four take turns delivering the sermon in the children's worship service. Children have their own invitation and prayer request time just like "big church." The buses had 192 riders on High Attendance Sunday. Pictured are Bobby Tidwell, George Adams, and Lynn Todd.



NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BSU officers were installed during a banquet at Bonanza in Hattiesburg, Dec. 12. The new officers at Jones County JC are pictured from left to right, front row Karla Dixon, morning watch chairman; Corine Funderburk, noonday chairman; Dawn Satterwhite, puppet and skit chairman; Tania Davis, secretary; Sheri Lee, publicity; John Stroud, missions chairman; Dwayne Higginson, evangelism chairman; Dale Cook, intramurals; Lee Winborne, lounge chairman; Kirk Hinton, president; Edward McDonald, outreach; John F. Sumner, Jr., is BSU director.

Freedom Church, Jones County, presented the cantata, "Carols of Christmas," on Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. Jimmie and Jan Walters directed the production. The preschool children presented a nativity scene, with the youth choir providing background music under direction of James Gipsen. Billy Ingram is pastor.



NEW ALBANY, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, held an Acteen recognition service Nov. 3. From left to right, girls and their escorts are: Queen, Lana Hogue, Eric Sumrall; Queen, Kerri Watkins, Jody Stevenson; Queen, Lynn Mauldin, Joe Nichols; Queen, Marilyn Eldridge, Steve Harrelson; Queen, Gail Eldridge, Tony Robbins; Queen Regent and Queen Regent in Service, Mitzi Rodgers, David Rainey; Queen Regent in Service, Tracy Nance, Brian Sisk; Queen Regent in Service, Debbie Gammel, Sean Milner; Queen, Christy Littlejohn, Bo Hamilton; Queen with Scepter, Karen Barkley, Dale Hendrix; Queen, Carol Powell, Curtis Tate; Queen, Lori Neal, Barry Neal; Queen, Lisa Clayton, Stephen Skinner. The theme of the service was "God called and we have answered." Leaders are Mrs. Jane Goode and Mrs. Bonnie Gammel.



NORTH CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, voted in July, 1982, to add a master bedroom, master bath, and den to the pastor's home, at a cost of \$17,421.00. The work was completed by August and church members dedicated themselves to paying off this debt by early 1983. This was done, with an excess of \$1,700 in gifts for that purpose. On Jan. 16, the building finance committee and the pastor, G. Ross Maroney, Sr., burned the note. That night, after evening service, the pastor and his family held open house. Left to right are R. B. Breazelle; Bob Adkins, chairman, building finance committee; the pastor; and Leonard Warren.

Wendell and Laquita Powers, missionary associates to Taiwan, are in the States on furlough (address: c/o Woodmont Baptist Church, Woodmont at Hillsboro, Nashville, Tenn. 37215). She was born near Bruce, Miss.

Charles and Dianne Deevers, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: BP 512, Bouake, Ivory Coast).

Pastor's wife and mother-in-law die

Mrs. Bernice Cockrell, 80, and Mrs. Eloise Roberts, 53, died Tuesday, Jan. 18, in a car accident. Services for both were held at First Church, Louisville.
Mrs. Roberts was the wife of Olyn Roberts, Baptist pastor, who recently resigned at Morgan Chapel Church in Oktibbeha County, to accept Fellowship Church in Lauderdale County. Mrs. Cockrell was Mrs. Roberts' mother. The pastor and his family were involved in moving their household goods from one county to another, when the accident occurred.
Both were natives of Louisville.
Mrs. Cockrell is survived by four sisters, two brothers, one grandchild, and one great-grandchild.
Mrs. Roberts is survived by her husband, Olyn Roberts; daughter, Mrs. Debbie Scire of Philadelphia; one grandchild.

Anonymous Baptist church helps church in Nevada

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)—Last fall the future of the Community College Baptist Church looked bleak. Because of a city building code, the small church was in danger of being closed down unless several expensive repairs were made.
After news of the church's plight was reported in Baptist Press, however, support came in from all over the country, said Liz Collins, wife of pastor Cal Collins.
"A church from Louisiana, which asked to remain anonymous, came out and finished up the work that needed to be done on the parsonage. They did all the immediate work that needed to be done on the church," she said. "We had to put in lights and bars on the doors, all safety equipment. They paid for that and did the work and even brought their own tools."
Part of the work done by the Louisiana church was the installation of sidewalks. "We got those in Sept. 20. Because of that, the city automatically gave us an extension for the parking lot. Now we don't have to have the parking lot finished until April. We have all the money for that except for about \$900 (the total cost will be approximately \$5000)." Collins said she and her husband felt sure they would get that in time.
Six men from Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas spent four days of their vacation at the church painting the parsonage and all the trim on the church. Collins said they weren't members of Community Chapel church, but belonged to another church in town.

Robison, Davis smash \$1 million in art

By Helen Parmley
DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist evangelist James Robison and Fort Worth millionaire industrialist Cullen Davis smashed more than \$1 million worth of jade, ivory, and gold art objects in October because, they said, the objects represented false gods.
Davis had donated the rate pieces to Robison's ministry based in Euless, Texas, the evangelist said, and the artwork had been taken to Dallas to be sold at an auction. The proceeds from the sale were to pay bills for Robison's ministry, he said.
But while reading the Bible as an aide was driving him to see the pieces, Robison said, his eyes focused on Deuteronomy 7:25, which says: "The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire. Thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein; for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God."
"It was so clear to me that the Lord didn't want me to receive them (the art objects)," said Robison, who described the articles as relating to Eastern religions. He said one jade pagoda carving, more than four feet tall, was valued at more than \$500,000.
"It was not biblical; and as far as I was concerned, it represented a false

religion," Robison said.
Robison and an aide loaded the objects into a truck and drove to Davis' mansion. Robison said that when he showed Davis the Bible verse and told him he could not receive the collection, Davis replied: "If you can't have it, I can't have it. We're going to destroy them. I don't want to do anything that does not please the Lord."
Davis went into his mansion, Robison recalled, and returned with hammers. The men smashed the collection in Davis' driveway.
(Parmley is religion editor of the Dallas Morning News.)

Hendrix named CLC project coordinator

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BR)—Lela Hendrix, 42, has been named special project coordinator for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.
Mrs. Hendrix, a free-lance writer and adjunct professor in the department of behavioral sciences at Belmont College in Nashville, Tenn., will correlate Christian social concerns and Christian social ministry projects for the Commission and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Cuban churches survive

NEW YORK (EP)—Cuban churches are surviving under Fidel Castro, but their favorable treatment depends on their relationship with the communist government, according to Paul A. Wee, general secretary of Lutheran World Ministries.
Wee, 45, was part of a 13-member Protestant and Roman Catholic Mission Personnel Conference that visited Cuba last fall. The ecumenical group meets annually to explore ways of more effectively training and orienting missionaries sent by U. S. churches. During the seven-day visit, he had a chance to talk mainly with church leaders and laypeople, as well as some Communist party officials.
With Castro's 23-year-old rule, said Wee, the church has not withered and died. "Yet it is also clear not only that the churches, especially the Roman Catholic, have lost the privilege and power they enjoyed in pre-revolutionary Cuba, but also that those church bodies which presently affirm the direction of the new society will in turn be affirmed by the government."
Most of the 500 Lutherans in Cuba were part of the "upper and upper-middle class of Cuban society," said Wee. They, like many elements of the Roman Catholic Church, opposed the

revolution.
But there are many Christians who continue to support the sweeping social reforms instituted by the Cuban government, said Wee, even though a Christian cannot belong to the Communist party. Wee quoted one Roman Catholic lawyer who contends that a Christian should not be a party member regardless since a Christian must not identify the gospel with any political stance: "A Christian must always be in dialectic tension, a yes and a no, over against the political system. A Christian must live in this constant tension."
In a letter written to President Reagan after the trip, the 13-member delegation said the "time has come for the United States to undertake those actions which will reduce, rather than exacerbate, tensions with Cuba." It also urged normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. As to the role of the U.S. churches, Wee said, "In spite of the U.S. government's desire to isolate Cuba from relationships with U.S. institutions, American churches should seek ways to maintain those contacts which serve to strengthen the witness of the churches within the Cuban situation."

Chinese authorities close Canton's last house church

HONG KONG (EP) — Chinese authorities recently closed Canton's last and largest church which operated outside the auspices of the government's Bureau of Religious Affairs. This and other similar congregations are commonly called house churches. Pastor Lam Hin-Ko was told December 2 that services and Bible studies could no longer be held, informed sources report to East/West News Service.
Lam canceled a service scheduled for December 3. No other house churches remain openly active in Canton. There are three officially-

recognized bodies.
For several years up to 200 people gathered as part of Lam's church. Large house meetings such as this one have only been possible during the past two to three years. When Mao Tse-tung was in power, only extremely clandestine groups of one to two dozen met throughout the country, including Canton. Most Chinese Christians belong to house churches. For two to three months Chinese authorities and leaders of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement have been imploring Lam to close his church. He has also been warned against meeting with individuals from the West.



TWENTY-THREE junior high and high school students from First Baptist Church, Magee, and First United Methodist Church, Magee, met together for a January Bible Study Jan. 16-19 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Those who led in the study and served as chaperones included Richard Handley, Methodist youth director; Greg Stanford, Baptist youth director; Paul Padgett; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dickson; Mrs. Mary Ramsey; Mrs. Pat Hubbard; and Brice Massey.

Staff

Allan W. Singletary has assumed duties as youth director and associate pastor at Pine Forest Church, Lauderdale County. He moved there from Union Baptist Church, Kemper County, where he was pastor. While keeping a full program going at Pine Forest, Singletary is also working with the West Lauderdale High School Christian Fellowship Club and is attending Clarke College. Harold W. Lollar is the Pine Forest pastor.



Malone

Rich Malone has joined the staff of Calvary, Tupelo, as minister of youth. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary and previously served as minister of youth at First, Amory.

David Claxton will be moving to Jackson, Feb. 6, as he begins his ministry at Parkway as minister of evangelism. Claxton was born in Newton, Ala. and grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He is a graduate of Florida State University and of New Orleans Seminary. He will be receiving his Ph.D. in 1983. He has served churches in New Orleans and Chalmette, La. in the capacities of associate pastor, youth, music and evangelism. He has also served as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church, Caledonia, Miss., and was pastor of Tangipahoa Church, Tangipahoa, La., when he accepted the call to Parkway.

Danny S. Siquelfield has moved from Lake Forest Baptist Chapel, at Walls, Northwest Association, to the Trinity Baptist Church, Apopka, Fla., as youth pastor. He served as associate pastor of the Lake Forest mission for two years. (Lake Forest is a mission of LaBelle Haven Baptist Church, Memphis.)

Union Baptist Church near Meridian has called Ruth Callahan Mason as minister of music. She was formerly employed as minister of youth and youth choir director at New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian. She had previously served as youth choir director for First Church, Helena at Pascagoula. She attended Clarke College and Jones County Junior College. A. C. Johnson is interim pastor at Union.

West Poplarville Church, Poplarville, has a new pastor, Bob Brandon. He was born in Memphis, attended Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., and is now a student at New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor in Arkansas before entering the seminary.

Kenneth Rushing has resigned as minister of music of Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, to attend Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, to pursue a master's degree in church music.

Mike Davis is now serving Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton, as minister of music and youth. He went there from Goodwater Church, Rt. 2, Magee. Ed Deuschle is Trinity pastor.

Oakland Grove Baptist Church, Laurel, has called Jeff Creekmore as minister of music-youth. The church is without a pastor at this time due to the resignation of T. D. Traylor in October, 1982.

Union, Meridian, has special day for 'Miss Mamie Rea'

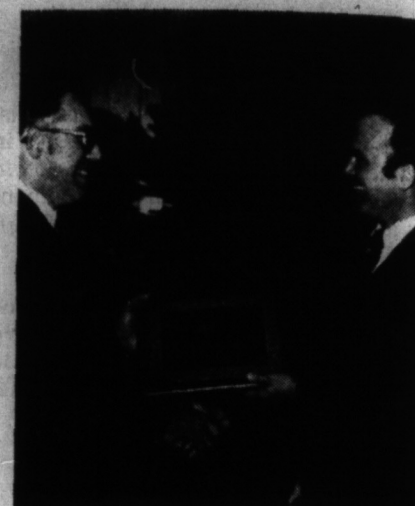
Union Baptist Church, Rt. 1, Meridian, marked Sunday, Jan. 23, as Miss Mamie Rea Strange Day. Miss Strange, who joined the Union Church in 1917, is moving to Florida.

The day was in appreciation for the 65 years of service Miss Strange has given to the church. She taught the Fidelis Sunday School Class, and the Young Married Sunshine Sisters Class, and was assistant teacher for the Dorcas Class. Since 1963 she has been church treasurer.

Before retirement she worked for US&G for 41 years. As a young adult, she taught school and later worked for the Salvation Army for two years.

At Union Church, where A. C. Johnson is interim pastor, she prepared the church bulletin each Sunday, and took care of all the treasurer's duties, without salary. She used her car to transport others to church. Each Wednesday she visited the nursing home in Quitman. During Vacation Bible Schools, she served cookies and Kool-aid. She sent birthday cards to church members.

A fellow church member said, "Miss Mamie Rea is a reminder of the heaven Jesus spoke of in a parable where the woman took leaven and hid it in three measures of meal, until the whole was leavened. She has had the same good influence on all those around here."



James A. Ruffin, left, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian, for ten years, receives a plaque from Wayne Cobb, chairman of deacons.

Poplar Springs Drive readies for centennial

James A. Ruffin and his family were honored recently with a reception given by Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church Meridian, on his tenth anniversary as pastor there. A plaque of appreciation and a monetary gift were presented to him.

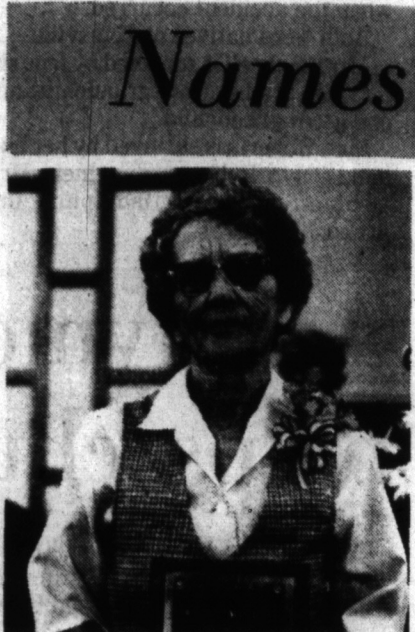
Since Ruffin's coming to Poplar Springs Drive as pastor Dec. 19, 1971, the church has experienced numerical growth and increased giving; 371 have been baptized. The church has bought additional property, and a Christian Life activities building has been erected. The church has been involved in mission projects in Ohio, Mont. and Calif.

Poplar Springs Drive is now remodeling its sanctuary, enlarging the choir loft, and improving the lighting at a cost of \$90,000.00. This is in preparation for the centennial of the church to be observed on April 24, 1983, with the theme, "The family of love in a century of service."

Lottie Moon reports

The Lottie Moon Offering from Corinth Baptist Church, Jasper County, was \$3,808.40. Edd Holloman is pastor.

Economy is the art of making the most of life.—George Bernard Shaw.



MRS. J. C. (WILLIE BLANCHE) DELK was recognized recently by the Sunday School of Providence Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, for her 44 years of "dedicated Christian service" as teacher of the Dorcas Sunday School Class. Charles A. McMahan, Sunday School director, presented to her a plaque.

Willie Blanche Burkett Delk was born Aug. 24, 1905, in Forrest County. She joined Providence Church in 1918, and began teaching the Ladies' Class (later named Dorcas) in October, 1935. She has taught it every year since, except one year when she was caring for her ill mother. Her husband served at Providence as deacon, church treasurer, Sunday School director, and church clerk.

James Beasley celebrated his tenth anniversary on Jan. 15 as minister of music at First Church, Crystal Springs. On Jan. 16 the church held some special events to mark the anniversary, including a luncheon for the church staff; an evening program, "James Beasley—A Ministry of Faith"; and a churchwide reception in honor of Beasley and his wife Loretta. Joel E. Haire is pastor.

First Church, Ridgeland ordained Wayne Rowan to the gospel ministry on Jan. 9. Rowan is a native of Kenton, Tenn. He has been called to the pastorate of Damascus Baptist Church, Copiah County. Harry Birlew, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Kenton, Tenn., brought the ordination message. Ed Griffin is pastor at First, Ridgeland.



Rowan

Rip Noble was ordained as a deacon, on Jan. 9, by First Baptist Church, Anguilla, Robert A. Dottle, pastor.

Gary Carter of First Church, Oxford, was ordained as a deacon Jan. 2 by the church.

Devotional

The whole ball of wax

By John B. McBride, director
Department of Cooperative Missions
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

As kids we used to talk about something called "the whole ball of wax." In our minds it had to do with summing up in one statement or a group of statements the best of our understanding of a subject.

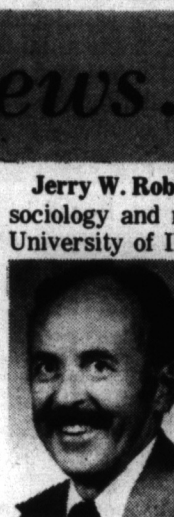
Paul gives us in his letter to the Ephesians a view of the "whole ball of wax" which appeals to me: "God has told us his secret reason for sending Christ, a plan he decided on in mercy long ago; and this was his purpose: That when the time is ripe, he will gather us all together from wherever we are—in heaven or on earth—to be with him in Christ, forever" (Ephesians 1:9-10 TLB).

The "whole ball of wax" speaks of God's aggressive action on our behalf, in the past, present, and future. In it is seen God's supreme values: your and my well being.

To live longer is a widespread hunger of the human heart. Yet, Paul knows that longevity alone is not what our hearts hunger for the most. Our hearts hunger for a vital relationship with the Eternal. It begins here and deepens and broadens throughout time and eternity.

The past witnessed the initiation of God's plan. The present catches us being enriched by the living Christ in us and making efforts to share God's plan with every person in the world. The future shall see God bringing us all together in Christ to be together and with him, forever.

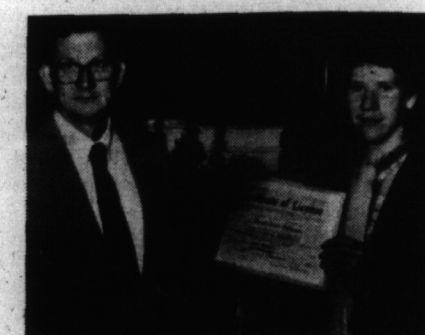
I am thrilled to be a participant in God's wise plan for the highest expression of his created world: Praise him today by sharing the "whole ball of wax" with friends and strangers.



Robinson

Jerry W. Robinson, Jr., professor of sociology and rural sociology at the University of Illinois since 1971, was named affiliate professor in the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, Ill., in December, 1982. He is a former pastor of several Mississippi churches. In recent years he has taught stress management and wellness lifestyle development to thousands of farm families and other professionals. He is the author of *Stress And How To Live With It*. He grew up in the Mars Hill community of Amite County, Miss., and has six earned academic degrees—the Ph.D. and M.A. from Mississippi State University, the B.D. and M.R.E. from New Orleans Seminary, the B.S. in Agriculture from L.S.U., and the B.A. from Mississippi College.

James L. Travis, chairman, department of Biblical studies, Blue Mountain College, has written the Bible Book commentary on Amos, Hosea, and Jonah, for the April, May, June, 1984 adult Sunday School quarterly. This is the second of the commentaries he has written for the Baptist Sunday School Board.



DANIEL HATHORNE, right, has been licensed to the gospel ministry by First Baptist Church, Soso. The license was presented by his father, Mason Hathorne, left, deacon at First Baptist. Jim Beck, pastor, reports that within the last year eight young people and one couple have surrendered to be open to God's will, whether for preaching or missions. Among those was Beck's 17-year-old daughter, Kris. Beck added that First Baptist Church has produced the last three presidents of Jones County Junior College BSU—RANDY SIMS, 1981; DANIEL HATHORNE, 1982; KIRK HINTON, 1983. JERRY EAST, current president of the USM Baptist Student Union, is also from First, Soso.

Charles M. Howell, 66, died Jan. 16 at home in Gulfport. He was a native of Marlboro County, S.C. and had served as a Baptist minister in many churches over the South. Funeral services were at Olive Baptist Church, Gulf Coast, on Wed., Jan. 19. He is survived by his wife, Grace Howell; three sons; one daughter, Mary Horton of Gulfport; five sisters; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Bible Book

Benefits through his death

By Joe H. Tuten, pastor,
Calvary, Jackson
Romans 5:1-21

The larger unit of this study is "God's Plan for Dealing With Sin," based on Romans 3:21-8:39. The lesson this week includes Romans 5:1-21 and is entitled, "Benefits Through Christ's Death." It will be a rewarding study and dear to the soul of all believers. Though each Christian may be deeply aware of many wonderful and personal benefits that are his through Christ's death, there is value in having some of those benefits defined and grouped in logical order. Our lesson this week will be helpful in that regard.

The benefits of justification (5:1-5). Any discussion of justification assumes the fact, declared repeatedly in the Bible, that every person is a sinner (3:23). Every person is basically and seriously out of harmony with his Creator and his Creator's purpose and will. The person he is and the way he is living do not correspond to what the Creator was creating. Every person is missing the Creator's mark. Every person, therefore, needs to be set right (justified) in relation both to the Creator and to the Creator's purpose.

Sinner man needs to be justified. God, acting in grace, offers to justify him. God will justify sinner man in God's own righteousness through Christ Jesus. This is God's promise, boldly declared in the incarnation. Justification (being set right) becomes reality in the person of faith (who mentally-spiritually unites himself to God). That is Paul's argument in chapter four. What, then, are the benefits of justification? As Paul would say, "Much every way" (3:2).

The fundamental benefit resulting from justification is that "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:1). Notice that "we" occurs several times in this passage. We are no longer enemies of God, fighting him and his will, and, therefore, facing divine wrath. The warfare has ended. The relationship has changed. Since we are "set right" with God we have peace with God. Peace is inherent in the changed relationship. It is much more than the cessation of hostility. Peace is strongly positive. It includes like-mindedness, shared purpose, and shared effort. Since our justification, we have become laborers together with God.

Another benefit of justification is continued access through Christ to the grace which brought us into his new relationship with God and which we now possess (5:2). This is our new state of existence. This is our new environment.

vironment.

A third benefit is the new view that we have of our troubles. We now see beneficial and character building results ensuing from our suffering. There is a linked chain between suffering, endurance, character, hope and love—all worked out in our lives through the Holy Spirit (5:3-5).

All of these exceedingly precious benefits are ours because we are "set right" (justified) with God by our faith. The word "therefore" in verse one marks a turning point. It follows the brilliant argument for justification by faith presented in chapter four. Christ's death the basis of justification (5:6-11).

This passage shows Paul at his best in proclaiming God's initiative in salvation. It has been called a hymn of love. There are three parallel statements which should be noted. "While we were yet helpless..." (5:6). "While we were yet sinners..." (5:8). "While we were enemies..." (5:10). A progressive deterioration of man's condition may be reflected in the words helpless, sinners, and enemies. Only God's love, *agape*, directed to us in the death of Christ, can save us from such a condition.

We must not lose sight of the fact that "we were reconciled to God" (5:10). The scripture never speaks of God as being reconciled. God reconciles; man is the one reconciled. The death of his Son is God's means of reconciling man. The word "reconciled" in verse ten parallels the word "justified" in verse nine. They are general if not exact synonyms.

Christ overcomes Adam's offense (5:12-21).

This passage deals with Adam, Moses, and Christ. Sin entered into the world by Adam (5:12), and death passed upon all men. The Mosaic law, revealing God's moral and ethical nature, brought man face to face with himself as a sinner. It "imputed" sin—his sin. He now could read his sin right there in the ledger book of his own life. He could review again and again his personal, moral bankruptcy. Personal accountability brings personal guilt.

The "free gift," like sin, came "by one man, Jesus Christ" (5:15). Adam and Christ are alike in the sense that what each did affects many. Adam's way is sin, disobedience, judgment, condemnation, and death. Christ's way is grace, justification, righteousness, and life. Christ is victor, and life triumphs over death. This is our ultimate hope.

Uniform

Teaching stewardship

By John G. Armistead, pastor,
Calvary, Tupelo
Luke 16:1-13

In the motion picture, "The Sting," two con men devise and execute an elaborate scheme to cheat a gangster out of a large sum of money. The audience identifies totally with the two con men and cheers for them to succeed. Why do we so strongly pull for these who are doing something that is clearly illegal? No doubt because the gambler in this case is worse than they are, but also because we are fascinated with their ingenuity, cleverness, quick wits, and painstaking attention to detail. In this passage Jesus is instructing us to be as ingenious, quick thinking, and totally consumed with the task as we do God's work, especially in regard to using financial resources for his kingdom.

This parable of the unjust steward has always been a bit troublesome for Christians. Jesus appears to be commending the actions of a man who is doing something which is clearly illegal. However, we must remember the point Jesus is making: we must be totally wise and give our undivided attention to the tasks he gives us as the steward was to his.

I. The example of the unjust steward (16:1-8).

A "steward" was one who was entrusted with the care of someone else's property. This steward managed the estate of a wealthy absentee landowner. He was accused of mismanagement by the owner, fired and was required to show the owner the books (vv. 1,2). Concerned about his future, the steward devised a scheme whereby he could ingratiate himself to the owner's debtors. He called them in one by one and reduced their debts, destroying the old accounts. Thus he was confident of their friendship and when his day of employment was ended they would allow him to live with them in their homes (v. 4). The owner could do nothing about the situation when he found out, so he commended the ingenuity of the steward. Jesus commented that the "children of this world" are often more prudent in dealing with earthly matters than the "children of light" are about heavenly matters (v. 8).

II. Material possessions must be used to prepare for the next life (16:9).

This leads Jesus to urge his followers to use "unrighteous mammon" to make friends, that is, to do good. Mammon is Aramaic for "money." All money is a bit tainted (no telling what it has been used for before a Christian receives it) and thus "unrighteous."

Those who have been helped by our money will welcome us into the "everlasting tents" (heaven) with open arms. Doing good with money on earth thus makes us rich toward God in heaven.

III. One must be faithful with what he has (16:10, 11).

Here Jesus states a proverb which is true in every sphere of life. How one handles a little shows how he would handle much. In business, one is not promoted to a greater responsibility if he cannot handle a lesser responsibility. In politics, one is not elected to higher office if he fails at a lesser office. Especially is this true with the riches of God.

Jesus says if one cannot be a good steward of money (by implication a lesser blessing) why should God entrust him with true riches? God expects us to be faithful with all of our money. He is concerned, not only that we tithe and honor the work of his kingdom, but that we are a good steward of what we keep for ourselves. Actually the whole belongs to him. We hold even the 90 percent in stewardship and must give an accounting unto him for it.

IV. One cannot serve two masters (16:13).

Jesus undoubtedly said this on several occasions (cf. Matt. 6:24). One cannot serve both God and money. The word translated "served" is literally "be enslaved to." He says if one is enslaved to money he will hate God. We must decide at which altar shall we worship: God's or money's!

One day every one of us shall stand in judgment before God. Then either the accusing fingers of those we failed to help with our resources will point at us or the welcoming arms of those who have helped will greet us.

Gift added to Travis Scholarship

A gift to Blue Mountain College's Travis Scholarship Fund in memory of Mrs. Maggie E. Lancaster has been made by her children, Mrs. John Sloan and Mrs. Gene Williams of Aberdeen. The Travis Scholarship program was established to grant scholarships annually to qualified Southern Baptist ministers who have surrendered their lives and who are preparing for ministry in a Southern Baptist church or agency.

The trouble with giving advice is that people often want to repay you.

Life and Work

A supreme allegiance

By Beverly V. Tinnin, pastor,
First, Meridian
Matthew 6:19-24; 8:18-22; 13:44

Modern man identifies himself by his relationships or allegiances to a political party, nationality, section of the country, fraternity or club membership, family or religion. His agenda is fixed by the demands of his allegiances. It may be further observed that a person does the thing he wants to do. Otherwise he makes a feeble or brilliant excuse. Personal guilt results when he neglects his commitments.

It was observed that New Testament Christians "belonged to the church." Jesus identified himself with the church and admonished Paul on the Damascus road, "Why persecutest thou me?" Some practical results of the Christian's commitment are seen in our lesson for today.

Earthly versus heavenly values (6:19-21).

A person today spends his time in an attempt to possess material things. Communism arranges every facet of life in relationships to things. Marx advocated "every man putting in according to his ability and taking out according to his needs." This arranges all the priorities of comrades in a communistic society relating to philosophy, society, and even religion. Even in America the vast majority of the people spend every waking moment trying to accumulate transient things.

Jesus spoke of the "deceitfulness of wealth." Like "will-of-the-wisps" they appear to have form but are lacking in substance. Thieves, rust, mold and other factors rob in time and deprive of ownership.

Jesus introduces another aspect of ownership by pointing out that "where a man's treasure is there will his heart be." This is the reason God left the title for man to manage rather than supporting his work by other means. Correct stewardship results in the interest and effort of the one who invests his possessions in kingdom enterprises.

Shakespeare wrote: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves." Life is made for mastery. When Jesus talks of the optic nerve, he is referring to the concentration of the soul. Cataracts or tumors disease the eye so that things cannot be seen clearly. The sound eye (single) is undimmed by the world and sees God clearly. The request of the blind man, "Lord, that I might receive my sight" (Mark 10:51), results in 20/20 spiritual vision. Christ then declares that a man cannot serve two masters.

Joshua challenged Israel "choose ye this day whom you will serve." There can be no second place allegiance in comparison to a man's opting for God and his will in his life.

Jesus' call to discipleship (8:18-22).

Jesus' invitation to "follow me" was received by one claiming to be his follower as an invitation to follow an existence in which all his needs would be met abundantly. Jesus reading the man's thoughts rejected him by stating simply that whereas "the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has no place to lay his head." The next man excuses himself when invited to "follow me" with the statement, "I must bury my father." Since burial for the Jews was accomplished on the same day as the death occurred, he obviously referred to business matters pertaining to his father's succession. Business cannot interfere with discipleship; therefore Jesus declared "no man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom."

The kingdom is like a hidden treasure (13:44).

A man was plowing a field one day. He felt the blade strike a buried object. He glanced back and saw an unbelievable sight. He saw the glitter of gold coins uncovered as the top of a chest had been ripped away. Carefully covering the fabulous treasure, the man proceeded to sell all his possessions in order to raise enough money to purchase the field and with it gain ownership of the field.

The point is made in finding the treasure that the finder was not rewarded because of his merit but when the opportunity arose he had the good sense to trade all he owned in order to possess the valuable treasure. Jesus declared that good sense ought to prompt a man to trade all his perishable goods for a treasure that grows more dear with the passing centuries.

Off the Record

Sunday School teacher: Can anyone tell me the story of Adam and Eve? Little girl: First God created Adam. Then He looked at him and said, "I think I could do better if I tried again." So he created Eve.

A budget is like a girdle—not enough room for everything.

The only exercise some people get is lifting their eyebrows.